

CSP Eligibility, Qualification & Application Steps

Oregon Natural Resources Conservation Service



*You've been
taking care
of natural
resources
on your
land for
years...

...now,
you have a
chance to be
financially
rewarded
for your
work.*

You've decided you want to apply for the Conservation Security Program (CSP). Now what?

Once you've decided you are interested in CSP, you need to complete a number of steps to determine if you meet the basic eligibility criteria and if you are qualified for the program. Individuals who have an existing resource management system (RMS)-level plan with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may have already completed a number of these steps. Check with your local NRCS office to determine which steps you need to complete.

Complete the Self-Assessment Workbook

A self-assessment is required to apply for CSP. With limited funding available in this year's signup, only those individuals who have an outstanding conservation track record will be funded. The self-assessment workbook helps you determine your basic eligibility for CSP, and walks you through a number of steps to determine whether you qualify. Self-assessment workbooks are available at your local NRCS office or at NRCS Informational meetings or online at www.or.nrcs.usda.gov (select 'Conservation Security Program').

Self-Assessment Workshops

NRCS will be holding Self-Assessment workshops from June 29 - July 1 and from July 13-15. If you are interested in participating in a workshop, please contact your local NRCS office.

Get a USDA Identification Number

If you have worked with USDA farm programs in the past, you most likely have a USDA Identification Number (also referred to as a SCIMS number). If you do not, the process is very simple: just contact your local NRCS office to set up a time to receive a number.

Gather Appropriate Records and Documentation

Many of the questions in the self-assessment require documentation. For example, if you have rangeland, you are required to have five years of grazing records. Page 40 of the self-assessment workbook contains documentation examples. You will need to bring both your self-assessment and the required documentation when you meet with your local NRCS office to submit your application. You also need to bring an additional copy of pages 3-16 of the self-assessment with you to leave at the NRCS office.





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Meet with your local NRCS Staff

Once you have completed your self-assessment make an appointment with your local NRCS office by using the contact numbers on the right. They will confirm the information in your self-assessment and help you confirm whether you qualify for the program. They can also help you identify future work you would like to complete to conserve resources on your land.

Based on this information, your local NRCS staff will determine the category in which you are eligible. They will then help you finalize your Conservation Stewardship Plan.

Submit Your Conservation Stewardship Plan

Your information will be transmitted to the NRCS National Headquarters, where funding selections will be made. All applications in Category A will be funded first, followed by categories B, C, etc., until this year's funds for the program are depleted. You will be notified by mail once selections are made.

Complete Your Conservation Stewardship Contract

If you are selected, you will also be contacted by your local NRCS office to finalize and sign your Conservation Stewardship Contract. The first year's payments will be made prior to September 30, 2004.

**For more information,
contact your local
NRCS field office**

Pendleton

541-278-8049 ext. 105

Heppner

541-676-5021 ext. 109

Mission

541-966-2325

or...check out

www.or.nrcs.usda.gov

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